

Public Health Committee
Connecticut Legislature
Hartford, CT

March 12, 2008

Dear Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing in support of raised bill #5666, An Act Concerning Expansion of the Pilot program for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders. I am the mother of two children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and I am worried. I am worried that when they leave the school system they will not be able to support themselves with a job or career. I am worried about their medical expenses once they become of age especially if they do not have jobs. I am worried about who will take care of them and where they will live as my husband and I age.

My sons would not qualify for DDS services under the Department's current regulations if they were adults; their IQ scores are too high. They are doing well in school, but both require a great deal of support in order to do so. These same types of supports are not yet available for the work environment once children like mine are finished with school. Passage of this act would assist in providing the much needed support for people with autism that are currently falling between the cracks.

My husband and I run a support group for families that have a member with Asperger's Syndrome and other forms of Autism. We hear from families daily of how they are struggling to get services for their family member. Passage of this act will hopefully point the state in the right direction to provide much needed services for these individuals to help them be productive members of society.

Sincerely,

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